

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor:	Mitsuhiro Kurano	Examiner:	Daniel L. Robinson
Ser. No.:	10/597,953	Art Group:	3742
Title:	DIRECT HEATING TUBE AND METHOD OF HEATING FLUID USING THE SAME		
Filed:	14 August 2006	Date:	22 July 2009

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT**

This letter is responsive to the Office Action transmitted on 22 January 2009.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION - none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS – are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS - none.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS begin on page 5.